

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 6, 1867.

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia.

AN ACT

Providing for the issue of certificates of service to officers and soldiers of volunteers.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby,  
4       authorized and directed to cause to be furnished, upon appli-  
5       cation, to every officer who has been regularly mustered into  
6       the volunteer service, in either the army or navy of the  
7       United States, during the late war for the suppression of  
8       rebellion, and who has been honorably discharged therefrom,  
9       a certificate neatly engrossed on parchment, which shall set  
10      forth the date of the entry of the officer into such service, his  
11      rank, and the date of his discharge therefrom.

1       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That in case of the  
2       death of any such officer, his legal representatives shall be  
3       entitled to receive the certificate as aforesaid.

1       SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That in any case

2 where clear and full proof shall be made to the Secretary of  
3 War to his satisfaction, and in such form as shall be pre-  
4 scribed by him, by any enlisted man who was mustered as a  
5 volunteer into the army of the United States, and afterwards  
6 honorably discharged, having served any time between the  
7 nineteenth day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, and  
8 the twelfth day of April, eighteen hundred and sixty-five,  
9 that his discharge has been lost without fault of his own, the  
10 Secretary shall cause to be issued to such person a certificate  
11 in lieu of such discharge, which certificate shall not, however,  
12 be competent to be used as evidence in support of any claim  
13 against the government ; and such qualification restricting the  
14 use of such certificate shall be distinctly expressed in the  
15 body of the certificate.

1       SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That in like manner,  
2 and under the same conditions and restrictions as are con-  
3 tained in the foregoing section, a certificate may be issued in  
4 the case of any soldier who is deceased, on application made  
5 by his proper representatives.

Passed the House of Representatives February 5, 1867.

Attest :

EDWARD McPHERSON, *Clerk*.